

# USDA CARIBBEAN CLIMATE HUB | 2016 Request for Services Climate Resilient Agriculture Training in Puerto Rico & the US Virgin Islands

**Closing Date for Submission: Friday, August 26, 2016**

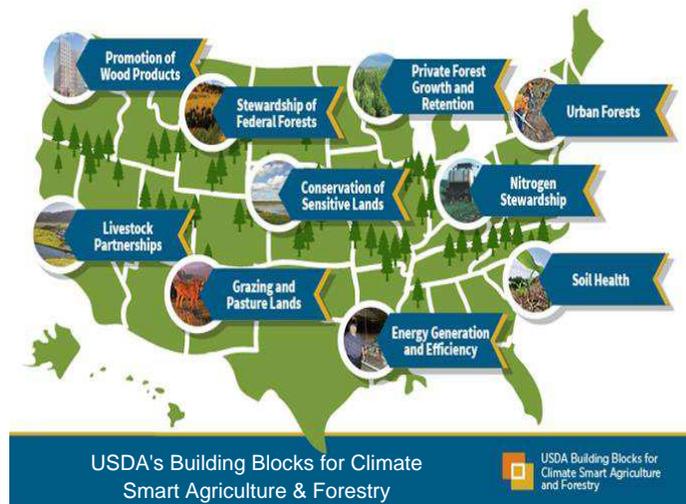
**Responses must be submitted to: [caribbeanclimatehub@gmail.com](mailto:caribbeanclimatehub@gmail.com)**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The [USDA Caribbean Climate Hub](#) is located in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and is one of ten Climate Hubs nationwide whose mission is to deliver science based knowledge and practical information to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to help them adapt to climate change and weather variability. The work of the Caribbean Hub focuses on developing and delivering climate services for better planning and implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI).

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project aims to build climate change resilience in agriculture and forestry through funding for the development of workshops and on-farm trainings for farmers, forest landowners, land managers, agronomists, and agricultural advisers that will emphasize peer-to-peer learning opportunities. One organization or individual based and working in Puerto Rico and/or the USVI will be awarded up to US\$25,000 to work with the USDA Caribbean Climate Hub to develop and document workshops that will provide capacity-building support to the working lands community over a period of twelve months.



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES and OUTPUTS

Workshops and on-farm trainings will combine local expertise and experience with emerging techniques and technology to help farmers and landowners discover what set of practices works best for them in dealing with drought, water scarcity, high temperatures, flooding, hurricanes, soil erosion, desertification, pest and diseases, and other climate related challenges. Practices promoted should also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in alignment with the [USDA's Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry](#). This project aims to raise climate change awareness and build resilience in Puerto Rico and the USVI by:

- Providing workshops on climate resilient agricultural practices that simultaneously work to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase farm resilience and profitability



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- Building knowledge sharing networks to discover and disseminate best practices and new technologies that can increase farmers' capacity to prevent, reduce, and recover from the negative effects of climate-related risks;
- Increasing climate change awareness through information sharing and by mainstreaming adaptation through effective communication means;
- Generating educational materials that can be used to assist vulnerable farming communities in tropical areas of the world adapt and mitigate climate change effects.

**Specifically, the contractor is expected to organize and provide at least four full workshops and/or on-farm trainings over a period of twelve months on the following topics:**

- Sustainable soil management practices such as the use of cover crops and forages, no-tillage farming, mulching, composting, application of green manure and biofertilizers, among others;
- Efficient water management and irrigation, such as Keyline design and greywater systems;
- Sustainable forestry, carbon farming, agroforestry, organic farming and market opportunities;
- Access and understanding of climate data to inform decision-making in farm management;
- Technologies and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon storage.

The contractor will be responsible for preparing a workshop report and at least one factsheet at the end of each workshop, and help in the distribution of the material created through different media channels.

#### **REQUIREMENTS: REQUEST FOR SERVICES**

**Interested individuals and organizations should send a two-page letter explaining their interests and capacities to organize, deliver, and document the services requested, and a Resumé or organizational profile.** The call is open to individuals and organizations based in Puerto Rico and/or the USVI that:

- Have been operating in a related field for a minimum of two years;
- Have the capacity or are willing to reach a large number of farmers in Puerto Rico and or USVI;
- Have the competencies and skills required to organize workshops and on-farm trainings;
- Can produce high-quality reports and educational factsheets in English and Spanish;
- Demonstrate the administrative competencies needed to manage the funds to be disbursed.

**Uses of project funds and other requirements:** Funds can cover fees and travel expenses of trainers and workshop facilitators and/or trainee travel, workshop logistics and related expenses like the production of factsheets, and other indirect costs. The contractor should be willing to work with one or more of the following organizations: a land-grant university in Puerto Rico and/or the USVI, the Extension Service and Experimental Stations, and with farmers and agronomist associations that can provide expertise and outreach capacity. All work should be done in collaboration with the USDA Caribbean Climate Hub.

#### **SUBMISSIONS**

- Responses to the Request for Services can be submitted in either Spanish or English and in PDF format to [caribbeanclimatehub@gmail.com](mailto:caribbeanclimatehub@gmail.com) no later than **Friday, August 26, 2016**.
- Use the following subject line: "Application - Request for Services: Climate Adaptation Training". For more information or inquiries please contact Dr. William Gould, Director of the USDA Caribbean Climate Hub at [wgould@fs.fed.us](mailto:wgould@fs.fed.us) or at 787-764-7790. Website: <http://caribbeanclimatehub.org>



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